

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~determining~~, ameliorating, ~~or~~ and treating endotoxin-mediated immune activation in acute or chronic heart failure in a human patient, the method comprising the steps of ~~measuring the level of a cytokine or an inflammatory marker or its production in the blood of the patient, and if any such level is elevated~~, administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a bile acid selected from the group consisting of chenodeoxycholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, and cholic acid, and ursodeoxycholic acid in combination with diuretics.
2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the heart failure is an acute ~~and~~ or chronic congestive heart failure due to cardiomyopathy of unknown reason, coronary artery disease, valvular disease, hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy, viral myocarditis or genetic cardiomyopathy or dilated cardiomyopathy.
- 3-16 (Cancelled)
17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic ~~bile acid~~ is able to inhibit the immune activation in the patients in response by a cell to endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide; LPS).

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the bile ursodeoxycholic acid is able to decrease the cytokine production in the patient ~~by a cell~~ in response to endotoxin (~~lipopolysaccharide; LPS~~).

19-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the bile ursodeoxycholic acid is able to reduce the permeability of the gut wall to bacteria and/or endotoxin (~~lipopolysaccharide; LPS~~).

22-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic acid is administered orally.

26. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic bile acid is administered intravenously.

27. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ursodeoxycholic bile acid administered rectally.

28-77 (Cancelled)

78. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising ursodeoxycholic bile acid and a diuretic.

79-81 (Cancelled)

82. (Currently amended) A method of reducing elevated levels of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) in human blood of patients suffering from acute or chronic heart failure by administering an amount of ursodeoxycholic bile acid ~~selected from the group consisting of ursodesoxycholic acid, chenodeoxycholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, and cholic acid~~ effective to reduce the elevated levels of LPS in human blood of patients.

83-84 (Cancelled)

85. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 82, wherein the ursodeoxycholic bile acid is administered intravenously.

86. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 82, wherein the ursodeoxycholic bile acid is administered rectally.

87. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 82, wherein the ursodeoxycholic bile acid is administered orally.